GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:354
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL;RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various environmental laws passed by Parliament are not being enforced strictly by certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have expressed their deep concern over the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to get the laws enforced strictly;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the efforts made by the Government to check various kinds of pollution including vehicular pollution and to frame rules for the manufacturers of vehicles adhering to pollution control norms?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 354 for reply on 7th April, 2003 raised by Dr. M.P. Jaiswal and Shrimati Rajkumari Ratna Singh regarding Enforcement of Environmental laws.

(a)& (b) The environmental laws are appropriately being implemented by the States. The environmental laws such as the Water(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air(Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act 1981, the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and rules made thereunder are implemented by the Pollution Control Boards and the Departments of Environment and other concerned agencies of the State Governments.

(c) & (d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) The Ministry has been reviewing on a regular basis, the implementation of Environmental Acts and Rules with the State agencies. The Central Government has also delegated powers to the State Governments, Central and State Pollution Control Boards for enforcement and compliance of environmental laws and rules. Subject specific strategies have been formulated to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations for enforcement of standards and norms.

(g) Steps taken to check various kinds of pollution including vehicular pollution are:

i) Control of Pollution in 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

ii) Prevention and Control of pollution in industries discharging waste water into rivers and lakes.

iii) Setting up of common effluent treatment plants.

iv) Restoration of environmental quality in critically polluted areas.

v) National river conservation programme.

vi) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified.

vii) Unleaded petrol is supplied from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country.

viii) Compressed Natural Gas(CNG) is supplied for automobilesthrough a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai tocater to the CNG vehicles.

ix) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.

x) India 2000 norms akin to Euro 1 norms for registration of four wheeled private(non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.6.99 in National Capital Region(NCR) and after 1.4.2000 in the entire country.

xi) Bharat Stage II norms akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private(Non commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.4.2000 in NCR, in Mumbai(including Greater Mumbai) from 1.1.2001, and in Kolkata and Chennai from 1st July, 2001.

xii) Bharat Stage II emission norms akin to Euro II norms for heavy vehicles has been made effective from 24.10.2001 in respect of National Capital Territory of Delhi and in Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai), Kolkata and Chennai from 31.10.2001.